

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] An automotive interior trim assembly, comprising:

a trim panel;

a housing that forms at least a portion of a map pocket coupled to said trim panel to define a cavity having an opening, said cavity adapted to store one or more items therein; and

an electroluminescent lamp integrally molded with said housing and adapted to illuminate said cavity.

[Claim 2] The trim assembly of claim 1 further comprising:

an electrical circuit for energizing said electroluminescent lamp.

[Claim 3] The trim assembly of claim 2, wherein said electrical circuit comprises:

a power source;

a first electrical connector coupled to said housing and electrically coupled to said electroluminescent lamp; and

a second electrical connector coupled to said trim panel and electrically coupled to said power source, wherein said first electrical connector is electrically coupled to said second electrical connector when said housing is coupled to said trim panel so as to energize said electroluminescent lamp.

[Claim 4] The trim assembly of claim 2, further comprising:

an electrical switch having a first position that energizes the electroluminescent lamp and a second position that de-energizes the electroluminescent lamp.

[Claim 5] The trim assembly of claim 1 configured as a door trim assembly.

[Claim 6] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said housing is configured as a map pocket closeout.

[Claim 7] The trim assembly of claim 6, wherein said map pocket closeout is configured as a front load map pocket closeout.

[Claim 8] The trim assembly of claim 6, wherein said map pocket closeout is configured as a rear load map pocket closeout.

[Claim 9] The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said housing is configured as a map pocket insert.

[Claim 10] A method of forming an automotive interior trim assembly having a trim panel, comprising:

- inserting an electroluminescent lamp into a mold;
- forming a mold chamber about at least a portion of the electroluminescent lamp;
- molding a housing by injecting into the mold chamber a molten polymer resin to thereby also mold the housing to the electroluminescent lamp; and
- coupling the housing to the trim panel.

[Claim 11] The method of claim 10, further comprising:

- molding an electrical connector to the housing during the molding operation.

[Claim 12] The method of claim 10, wherein molding the housing further comprises:

- molding a map pocket closeout.

[Claim 13] The method of claim 12, wherein coupling the housing to the trim panel further comprises:

coupling the map pocket closeout to a front surface of the trim panel.

[Claim 14] The method of claim 12, wherein coupling the housing to the trim panel further comprises:

coupling the map pocket closeout to a back surface of the trim panel.

[Claim 15] The method of claim 10, wherein molding the housing further comprises:

molding a map pocket insert.

[Claim 16] The method of claim 15, wherein coupling the housing to the trim panel further comprises:

inserting the map pocket insert into an opening in the trim panel.